

Cutting Costs & Increasing Clean Energy



With the success of Connecticut’s virtual net metering law, I worked this year to increase funding for the program to allow more people to take advantage of it. The law gives billing credit to municipal, state agency, and agricultural electric customers that install certain renewable generation systems and create excess power from their system. For example, if solar panels on a school roof generate more power than the school needs, the school can use its excess credits to reduce the electricity bill for other municipal buildings. The law is a win-win by encouraging more green energy use and saving Connecticut residents money at the same time.

Preparing First Responders to Address Hoarding

I worked with local leaders from Newington and law enforcement to pass a bill that will better prepare our communities and first responders to handle hoarding crisis situations of our neighbors. Hoarding affects individuals, families and entire communities. First responders have reported encountering hoarding at an overwhelming frequency, but they are often not equipped to properly manage them, leading to hoarding conditions that persist or worsen. The bill we passed establishes a task force to provide guidance for all in government on how hoarding can be managed to achieve a permanent resolution.



Preventing Murderers from Profiting

This year the General Assembly passed a bill clarifying state law to prevent murderers from collecting their victims’ inheritance. I introduced this bill after learning about Heather Messenger. Heather was killed by her husband, David Messenger. Despite the fact that he murdered his pregnant wife, David was able to inherit \$400,000 from her estate. A loophole in current law permitted David to inherit the estate of his victim because he was found not guilty due to mental illness or defect. This bill closed that loophole and will prevent such injustices in the future.

YOUR STATE SENATOR

PAUL DOYLE

Representing Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill & Wethersfield



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OPTIMIZING THE GREEN BANK

We created the first Green Bank in the country which uses public and private funding to invest in and expand clean energy projects in the state. Advocates for the environment and Connecticut’s business community have praised this program and it is being replicated throughout the country and the world. As Chairman of the Energy & Technology Committee, I introduced a bill that was signed into law that establishes the Connecticut Green Bank as an independent body, optimizes existing programs, and gives it additional powers to increase access to sustainable energy. We have also enabled the Green Bank’s solar home renewable energy credit program to move forward, making solar power a more viable alternative and affordable for Connecticut residents.

SECURING ENERGY IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Large-scale power outages caused by hurricanes and other severe weather events have highlighted the need for more stability in Connecticut’s electrical grid. As Chairman of the Energy & Technology Committee, I have led the charge in funding new microgrids that can provide power to water treatment plants, emergency shelters, hospitals and police and fire stations in the event of weather-related power outages. A bill I introduced and fought for this year furthers microgrid development by allowing the state to include matching funds or low-interest loans for more energy storage and generation projects.



YOUR STATE SENATOR

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Creating Jobs for the New Innovation Economy

This year I supported a law to focus on the new innovation economy so we strive to build jobs for the next generation of Connecticut's residents. From the Industrial Revolution to the modern jet engine and the financial industry, our state has been at the forefront of the nation's economy. But as the business world changes, we must once again reinvent our economy to continue to lead. This new law uses our economic strengths—a highly educated and productive workforce, top-tier universities and existing businesses—to capture future job growth at startups and expansion-ready companies as follows:

- Develops and attracts entrepreneurs who create new startups and jobs and helps grow startups into larger firms
- Establishes 'Innovation Places'—dense, local networks of innovators and entrepreneurs—where new businesses can grow faster together
- Connects colleges and universities with the private sector to convert research accomplishments into new businesses
- Attracts more private funding to support growing companies



Cutting Spending & Consolidating Government

This year Connecticut faced a large budget gap and given our tough economic reality, I worked with my fellow legislators to consolidate government and create efficiencies, institute fiscal reforms and reduce government spending. **To balance this budget, we did not raise taxes**



and reduced spending by \$1.5 billion. The cuts we made were not easy, but it was the only way forward without further burdening taxpayers and businesses.

Helping New Entrepreneurs Jump-Start Their Businesses

Starting a new business is a daunting, intimidating process. I worked to pass legislation establishing a new program to ease some of that burden by helping entrepreneurs make their business ideas a reality. This law directly addresses the unique needs of the entrepreneurial community by minimizing some of the expenses of launching a new business.

Specifically, Connecticut Innovations will reimburse approved entrepreneurs for any state filing, permitting, or licensing fees associated with



forming an information technology, biotechnology or green technology business in Connecticut. Any time we can encourage Connecticut's entrepreneurs to take the leap and form a new business, we are helping grow our economy and create new jobs.



Honoring Our Veterans

I presented over 150 Connecticut veterans who served in the armed forces during past wars with the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal at two events I hosted in Cromwell and Middletown with the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Sean Connolly. Our veterans have served and sacrificed on behalf of this nation, and I am committed to not only improving the critical services our veterans receive, but also to ensuring that veterans are properly recognized.

Supporting Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

As policymakers, we must improve the lives of our veterans after they return home and ensure they earn a good living and contribute to our economy. Under a new law that I championed this year, veteran-owned small businesses will now receive additional preferences that will make it easier for veterans to start and grow businesses. This new policy is a continuation of my multi-year focus on improving the lives of our veterans and supporting them in every way possible.

"The Chamber is grateful to Senate leadership for its support of this initiative, which is vital to our more than 40,000 veteran-owned businesses"

Andrew S. DiSilvestro Jr., Executive VP, CT Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Property Tax Relief for Veterans

There is no act more selfless than serving in the U.S. military. That's why I worked to ensure that we support our veterans and their families in as many ways as we can by honoring their commitment to our country. We have doubled the maximum property tax exemption that a municipality may provide to wartime veterans or their surviving spouses to \$20,000, while disabled veterans may be eligible for a further property tax exemption of \$3,000.

